

D R A F T  
PSC-AR-3  
1955

Procurement Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee  
on  
Foreign Language Publications

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
Calendar Year 1955

I. Responsibilities

The Procurement Subcommittee was established by the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications under the provisions of NSCID-16, 7 March 1953. The specific responsibility of the Procurement Subcommittee is to insure, for the Director of Central Intelligence, the "coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision." (NSCID-16, par. 1)

II. Activities

Objectives for 1955 were:

a. Complete the Union List of USSR Serial Publications

Compilation of the Union List was substantially completed save for a considerable number of USSR periodical and newspaper titles which either appeared initially or reappeared after a long absence during 1955. To incorporate such titles, publication of the List has been postponed until Spring, 1956.

b. Report the Receipt of Chinese Communist Serials in Washington

To facilitate the reporting by each IAC Agency of its receipts of Chinese mainland newspapers and periodicals, Acquisitions Branch of CIA Library published Collection Guide No. 2, Chinese Communist Serial Publications. This Guide has been circulated to all members of the Procurement Subcommittee. The Guide cites the title, issuing authority and place of publication of all newspapers received through various sources, and indicates the holdings of each title. Periodical receipts are currently being listed in similar fashion.

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c. Inter-Agency Reporting of Significant Acquisitions

During 1955 the Chairman had proposed that a vehicle ought to exist whereby each Agency could report its acquisition of publications of significant interest to intelligence. A draft of the proposed vehicle, tentatively called "Acquisition Notes", was drawn up and submitted to each Agency representative at the tenth meeting.

d. Continue Efforts to Coordinate Requirements in Washington and Collection in the Field.

1) Identification of publications of intelligence interest and resultant effectiveness of requirements to the field was enhanced through the regular issuing of such accession lists as the Recent Additions, Russian Book List, and Chinese Book List.

2) Fulfillment of requirements concerning Sov Bloc publications received in single copy only was increased to a significant degree in comparison with 1954. Critical USSR publications on industrial price lists and production standards, Chinese telephone directories and technical journals, Satellite official gazettes and diplomatic lists, and special bibliographies were photocopies and disseminated to member Agencies as procured.

3) Developing of cooperative schemes for obtaining Sov Bloc publications was given impetus in the field of informal exchanges with foreign academic and research organizations. PFO, New Delhi and PFO, Berlin reported the availability of research studies on the Sov Bloc made by academic organizations in their areas. PFO, Paris developed programs to provide increased coverage of Sov Bloc propaganda materials in France and the Benelux. [REDACTED] expressed keen interest in [REDACTED]

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In addition, the receipt of Chinese mainland and North Korean publications from the 29th Engineers, the 500th MIG, and the 6002nd AISG in Tokyo was increased through the exchange of "want lists" and preparation of photocopies of single copy receipts.

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e. Recommend Improvements and Expansion of Procurement Facilities in the Field

Discussions are continually in progress between State and CIA on methods of improving and expanding the procurement of foreign publications. During 1955, discussions centered about the need for PPO positions at Tokyo, Cairo, Djakarta, and London. Justification for such positions and candidates suitable for filling them were submitted.

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[REDACTED] CIA Library was [REDACTED] for six months during 1955. Although not altogether satisfactory, the use of personnel on TDY at particular posts has given evidence of value to the PPO program and in areas such as NE/A and SEA might prove beneficial.

Apart from staffing problems, the largest single obstacle encountered in field procurement remains the varied clerical tasks which encumber the intelligence operations of the PPO. During 1955, moderate success was obtained in reducing this load by transferring to Washington the book accessioning and accounting tasks of PPOs Moscow, Paris, and Hong Kong. The transfer of such functions permitted PPOs to spend more time on the selective acquisition of required publications.

As a result of the early summer trip of Mr. George Pope, Chief, IAD/State to Europe, expansion of the Iberian Peninsula procurement program and of increased procurement in Rome, Athens, and Bern was implemented. The senior PPOs of the areas concerned, i.e., Paris and Berlin, were instructed to develop contacts with local book dealers and engage their cooperation in bringing to the attention of local Mission representatives information on publications of potential interest to Washington. This program is still in the formative stage.

III. Objectives for 1956

- a. To establish the practice of annual reporting by each member Agency concerning the scope and product of its internal foreign publications procurement program.
- b. To reduce duplication of procurement effort among member agencies; in particular, to discuss allocation of areas of responsibility, and to evaluate policies concerning the use of open literature as enclosures to intelligence reports from the field.

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- c. To develop inter-agency standards for the efficient operation of publications procurement systems, including manuals of guidance for customers and procurement staff.
- d. To evaluate the results of the exchange of publications programs as they effect the intelligence community.
- e. To study the possibility of a single fund concept for 1) serial subscriptions and 2) books and monographs as Embassy Moscow for all member agencies. If successful at Moscow, a similar procedure should be studied for other posts.
- f. To establish the Subcommittee as the principal instrument for briefing and debriefing of personnel with foreign publications procurement responsibilities, to include persons travelling as well as those taking or leaving foreign assignments.

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Chairman

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